

For You: Adorable Animal Posters ★ Funny Pumpkin Designs

September/October 2013

# American Girl

Celebrating 20 years of fun!

[americangirlmagazine.com](http://americangirlmagazine.com)

**36 fun  
boredom  
busters**

\* How to beat  
**bullying**

\* **Delicious**  
apple recipes

**Plus!**  
What girls think  
about gossip



Say farewell  
to Molly  
& Emily



Soon, Molly and her best friend Emily will move to the American Girl Archives™. Her story of growing up on the home front in 1944 reminds us of times when things seem to change overnight. Yet, from ice cream rations to unforeseen friendships, Molly shows us that there is always hope when we pull together and do our part!

Bring Molly and Emily's world to life with doll collections,  
books, outfits, a DVD and more!

 American Girl®

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# Contents

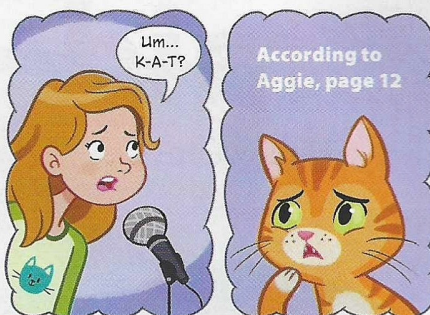
Volume 21, Number 5

## Follow Your Inner Star®

Girls Express ..... 2

Contest ..... 8  
Cool Ghouls

Speak Up! ..... 10  
Gossip



According to Aggie... 12  
The Dreaded Spelling Test!

What's It Really Like... 14



Cooking ..... 18  
Apple Snacks

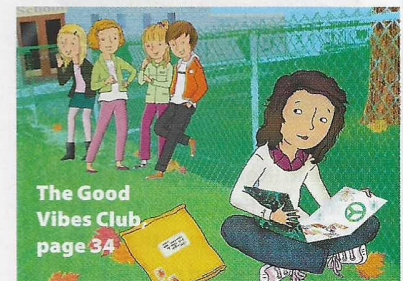
Two of a Kind ..... 22

To Do Today ..... 24

Here's How ..... 28  
Stand Up to a Bully



Craft ..... 30  
Sticker Treat



The Good Vibes Club ..... 34

AG's Puzzle Page ..... 42

Posters ..... 43

Help! ..... 45

Behind the Scenes... 48

Plus AG's Halloween Dreams



**Safety first!**

Some of our projects and activities require an adult's help.

When you see this symbol, be sure to ask an adult to work with you.



# Girls

E X P R E S S

## Snake Braid

Wear a cute zig-zag hairstyle for Halloween!



Select a section of hair and braid it. (Not too tight!) Near the end of the braid, hold on to the center strand, pinch the other two sections, and push them all the way back up the braid.



Then gently loosen the bunched sections until you see the "snake" start to form. Secure your snake braid with bobby pins.



### Meet an AG Reader

Olivia Y.  
Age 11, Texas



I live with my mom and dad, my brother and sister, and our two dogs—Bubba and Romo.

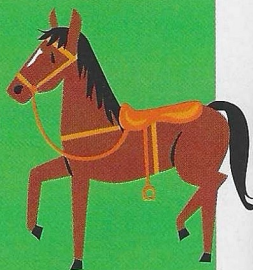
In my free time, I like to swim, read, and have friends come over. Now that school's starting back up, I'll be able to make even more new friends.

**My favorite snack:**  
cheesy crackers

**One thing most people wouldn't guess about me:**  
I am SUPER ticklish. Even if you get two inches away from me, I'll laugh!

**My proudest day:** That was when my first science project won the grand prize at my school.

**In 20 years,**  
I'll be running an equestrian center.



**My favorite part of AG:**  
I like the Help! section because it answers questions I can relate to.

*Introduce Yourself!*

To find out how to be a featured reader, go to  
[americangirl.com/playmagazine](http://americangirl.com/playmagazine)



# AG Art Gallery

Girls like you sent some pretty pictures for fall.

Help us fill our gallery!  
Send color copies of  
your **original artwork**  
or **photos** to the address  
on page 7. Sorry, we  
can't return entries.



Cayenne L.  
Age 10, California



Zaina M.  
Age 12, California



Hailey L.  
Age 9, Ohio

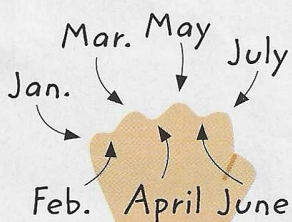
## Hand-y Tricks

No need for electronics—just use your hands!

### Knuckle Calendar

Use your knuckles to figure out how many days each month has. Hold your two fists in front of you. The months that fall

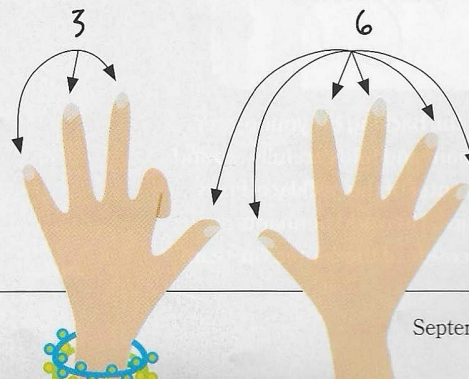
on your knuckles all have 31 days. The others have 30—except February, which has 28 (or 29 in a leap year).



### Finger Calculator

Use your fingers to remember the times tables for 9. Pick a multiplication problem that has a 9 in it—say,  $9 \times 4$ . Using the 4 in the problem, count four fingers from the left, and put down the fourth finger,

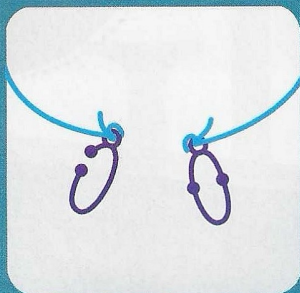
which will be the “divider.” There are three fingers to the left of the divider and six to the right. The numbers show you the answer to the problem— $9 \times 4 = 36$ .





# Show Your Spirit!

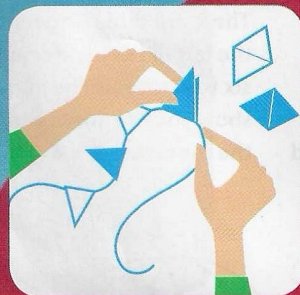
Make a cute pennant necklace using your team colors.



1. Cut an 18-inch piece of **nylon cord**. String kid-safe **plastic jewelry hooks** to each end, and tie double knots to secure. (Look for the hooks in the kids' jewelry section of craft stores.)



2. Fold a piece of **adhesive felt** in half and cut a pennant-shaped triangle on the fold to make a front and a back. Then use that piece as a template for trimming other pennants.



3. Peel the backing off your center pennant and fold carefully around the center of the necklace. Press to stick. Then add pennants on either side of the center. Go, team!



Photo: Steven Talley Styling: Aubre Andrus, Cindy Stulzel





## Shining Stars

**L**ife can be hard in poor countries where not all families have necessities such as clean water. When two sisters from Texas learned about children in African and Asian villages dying from drinking dirty water, the girls—Isabelle and Katherine—took action. “We felt like we should do something about it,” says Katherine, age 7.

Using traditional Japanese paper-folding techniques called origami, the sisters began crafting colorful three-dimensional ornaments. The money they have raised from selling their art—more than \$130,000!—has paid for new wells in some of those villages. “Our project saves lives,” says Isabelle, 9.

Isabelle likes to sculpt paper butterflies, flowers, and hearts, and Katherine prefers birds and animals. Their fingers fly, folding like crazy, often with their parents, friends, and neighbors. This year, Isabelle and Katherine hope to raise enough money with their origami ornaments to build more wells in Kenya, Ghana, Liberia, and India. With faith and an idea, “anything is possible,” Isabelle says.

### You can shine, too.

Want to make beautiful crafts to sell for fund-raising but don't know what to make? Find new and simple ideas at craft stores or libraries, and then get to work!



Isabelle

Katherine

Ornament photo: Radlund Photography



Cut out card. Flip over for directions.



Answer these questions, and then turn the page to see how your answers compare to those of other AG readers.

### I'm most afraid of...

- \* the dark.
- \* spiders.
- \* snakes.
- \* public speaking.

### Besides jelly, the best thing to mix with peanut butter is...

- \* bananas.
- \* marshmallow crème.
- \* apples.
- \* pretzels.



## Sock Sound

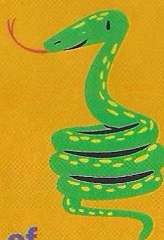
Carry your music player in sporty style! Cut off the top of a small **knee sock**—the cut piece should be twice as long as your player is tall. Fold the cut end under to make a deep pocket, and slip the sock onto your arm. Your music player should fit snugly inside for hands-free use.



Model photo: Steven Talley. Sock photo: Radlund Photography

## AG Poll

What girls told us



### Girls are most afraid of...

**41%**  
snakes.

**24%**  
spiders.

**19%**  
public speaking.

**16%**  
the dark.

### Besides jelly, girls like peanut butter with ...

**32%**  
marshmallow crème.

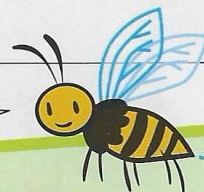
**27%**  
apples.

**25%**  
bananas.

**16%**  
pretzels.

To answer our weekly poll question, go to  
[americangirl.com/playmagazine](http://americangirl.com/playmagazine)

Please bee fair to Sierra!



## True Story

Sierra knew she had spelled the word correctly—but she was counted out at the spelling bee anyway!

Dear American Girl,

Spelling comes easily to me. It's probably because I love to read. I'm not that girl whose schedule is jammed with athletics, but I am super competitive. I've competed in spelling bees since first grade.

Even though I know how to spell a lot of words, things aren't always easy. Last school year in the finals of a big competition, I had to spell the word "braille." I knew how to spell it, and so I was shocked when the word master rang the bell signaling I was wrong. What? I spelled it right—hadn't I?

If this had happened when I was nine, I might have had a fit. It was so unfair! But I knew I couldn't argue with the word master. I held my head up and accepted the second-place trophy. Later, the bee organizers called to say they'd made a mistake. With help from my parents and my teacher, I asked to be put back in the next round of the competition. Standing up for myself, the right way, worked out. I got to move on to the next round of the spelling bee, just as if I had W-O-N.

Sincerely,

*Sierra S.*  
Age 12, California



Getting my second-place trophy





# Pattern Predictor

Which nail-art design is most like your personality?

1. Your friend has come to you because you'll have good advice for
  - a. choosing after-school activities.
  - b. decorating her room.
  - c. solving a friendship problem.
2. Your classmates want you in math club because you're great at
  - a. finding fun projects to work on.
  - b. making up clever sayings to put on posters.
  - c. being in charge at meetings.
3. Your teacher has paired you with the new girl because you're the best person to
  - a. introduce her to teachers.
  - b. answer her questions.
  - c. sit with her at lunch.
4. Your neighbors would ask you to babysit because their kids think you are
  - a. really nice.
  - b. really cool.
  - c. really fun.

## Mostly a's

Graphic Girl

Nails: artful

You: organized, trustworthy



## Mostly b's

Clever Creator

Nails: creative

You: wise, quick-thinking



## Mostly c's

Sparkly Star

Nails: glittery

You: outgoing, considerate



## Write to Us

Be sure to include your:

- \* First and last name
- \* Address and phone number
- \* Birth date, including year
- \* School photo or other portrait
- \* Parent's signature

**Send us a cool envelope!** Print our address neatly on the front and your return address on the back.

We can't print every letter, but we read everything you send to us. Hope to hear from you soon! ★



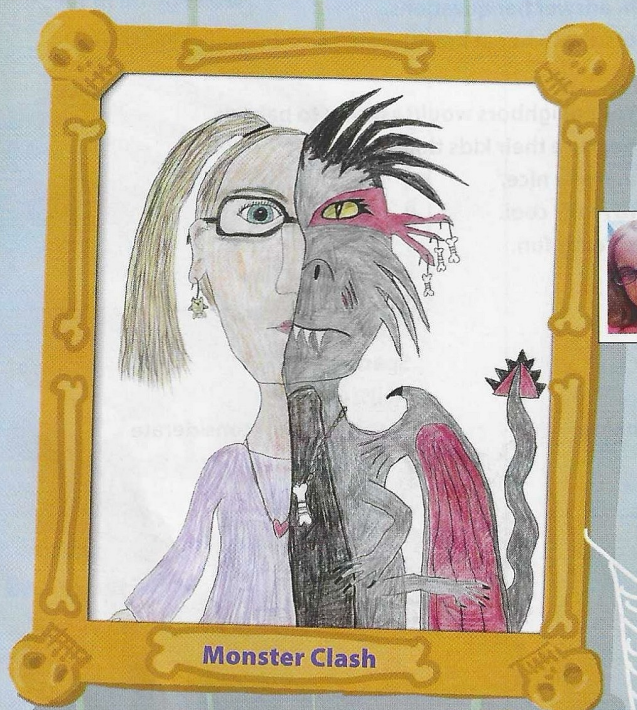
Envelope art by  
**Riley S.**  
Age 11, Iowa



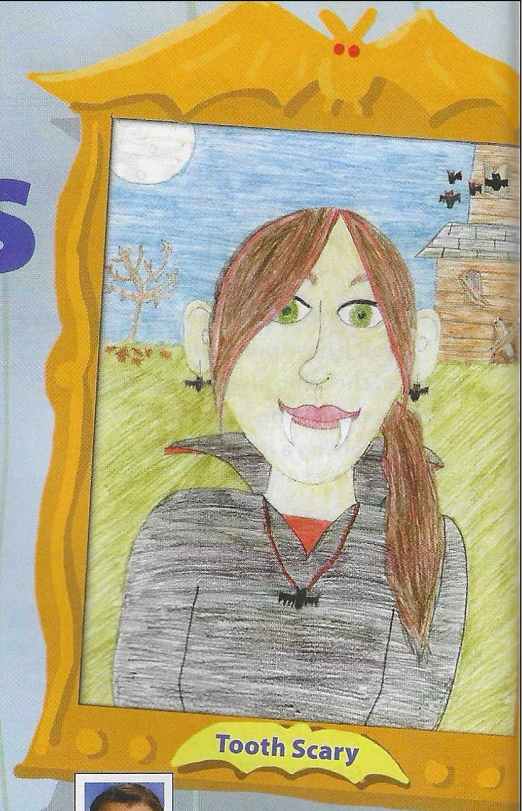


# Cool Ghouls

The spooky self-portraits these girls made aren't for the faint of art!



Bebo S.  
Age 13, Tennessee



Maya C.  
Age 10, Massachusetts



Anna O.  
Age 11, California



Riley E.  
Age 10, Pennsylvania





Lagoon Doom



Giovanna F.  
Age 10, New York

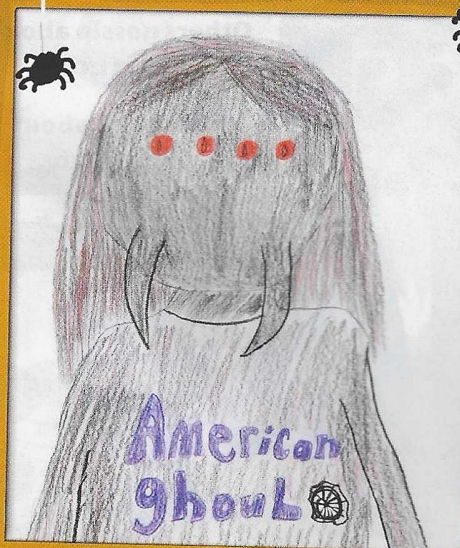


Slithery Style



Isabella F.  
Age 12, New York

They're sisters!



Fright Bite



Aryn B.  
Age 12, North Carolina



Looking Sharp



Jacinta L.  
Age 12, Ohio

## New Contest: Decorated Eggs

Draw an egg and decorate it for spring! To send your eggstra-special artwork, go to page 7 and follow the instructions. Postmark deadline: October 10, 2013. Winners will appear in the March/April 2014 issue. Sorry—we can't return entries. ★



Speak Up! ☆

# Gossip

*Shhh*—here's the truth about rumors and gossip.

**You usually hear gossip**

**at lunchtime: 30%**

**during recess: 27%**

**in the hallway: 16%**

**at a friend's house: 15%**

**on the bus: 12%**

**The last rumor you heard was**

**kind of true:**

**50%**

**completely true:**

**15%**

**not true at all:**

**35%**

**According to you:**

People talk behind your back more than you talk about others.

**Others gossip about you: 55%**

**You gossip about others: 45%**





If people whisper about you, usually you

shake it off  
and move on:

47%

feel a little  
red-faced:

45%

want to  
change schools:

8%

Wondering how  
to stop a rumor?  
Here are five ideas  
from readers.

1. Change the subject.
2. Walk away.
3. Act bored or look skeptical.
4. Stand up for the person who's  
being whispered about.
5. Tell a teacher or a trusted adult.

## Coming Up: Music

1. What is your favorite music?  
a. Pop      **d. Hip-hop**  
b. Rock      e. Oldies  
c. Country      f. Classical
2. What do you usually use to listen  
to music?  
a. An MP3 player      c. A cell phone  
**b. A computer**      d. A CD player
3. Where do you listen to music  
the most?  
a. Sports practice      c. Your room  
b. A friend's house      **d. The car**
4. Do you play any of these  
instruments?  
**a. Guitar**      c. Piano      e. Violin  
**b. Flute**      d. Drums      f. Clarinet
5. You usually turn on music  
when you're feeling  
**a. happy.**  
b. sad.  
c. stressed.  
d. energized.
6. Have you ever been to a concert?  
Yes  
OR  
**No**
7. If you and your friends started  
a band, what would you call it?

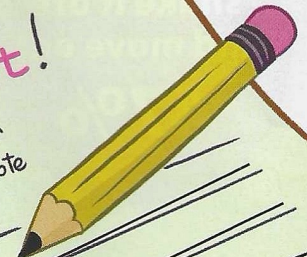
Send your answers to the  
address on page 7, along  
with your first and last name,  
address, school or portrait-  
style photo, and birth date.  
Postmark deadline: October  
10, 2013. Some answers will  
appear in the March/April  
2014 issue. ★



# According to Aggie™

## The Dreaded Spelling Test!

by Laura Dower  
and Genevieve Kote



Last night I had a weird dream.

I was onstage in front of the entire school in my kitty pajamas.

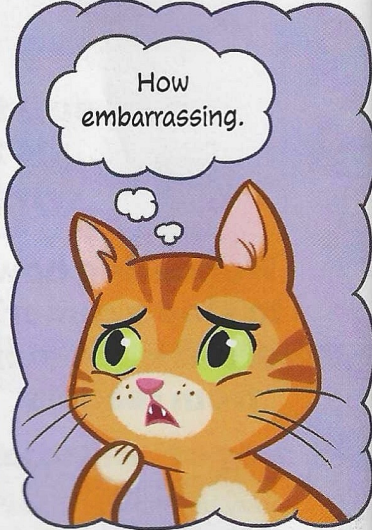
My real-life cat, Peking, was there, too.



Um... K-A-T?



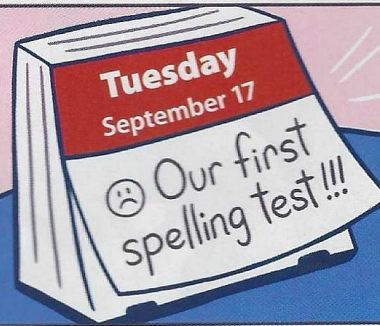
How embarrassing.



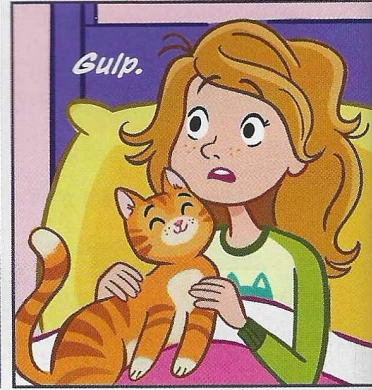
Wake up, sleepyhead!



I glanced at my calendar.

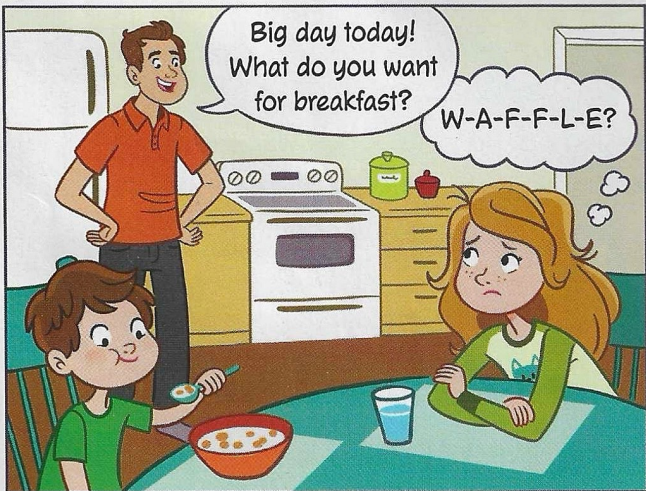


Gulp.



Big day today! What do you want for breakfast?

W-A-F-F-L-E?



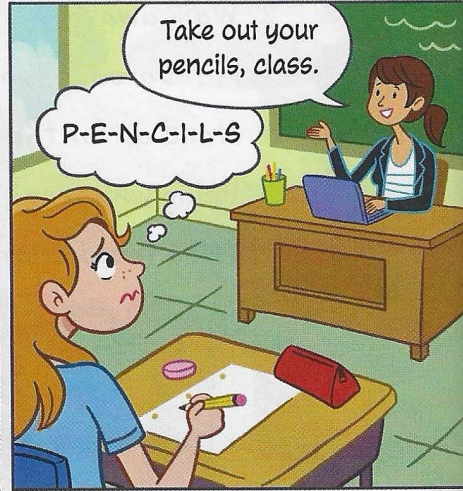
Did you study?

Y-E-S.



Take out your pencils, class.

P-E-N-C-I-L-S





I'm so not worried at all.  
Spelling is my thing.

P-A-N-I-C

Sigh.  
Fiona knows  
spelling tests  
freak me out.

Thank goodness  
for Liv. She gives  
me a double  
thumbs-up no  
matter what.

A B C D E

F G H I

We got our tests back the next day...

Nice job,  
Aggie.

W-O-W!

So, how did  
you do?

I expected Fiona to show me her big fat  
red A, without the minus. But she didn't.

So she ran away  
and didn't say  
anything?

Um...  
let's just go  
to recess.

Don't change  
the subject!

I did change the subject. It was wrong to  
G-O-S-S-I-P. Plus, I really wanted to  
B-R-A-G. But I'd do that later, at home.

Don't miss my next  
misadventure, when Mom  
leaves me in charge of  
my little brother:

**MY BROTHER,  
THE TURKEY!**

Such a  
birdbrain.



# What's It Really Like...

Meet five girls who have found themselves in amazing situations.

## ...to ride out a hurricane?

**Danica A.**

**Age 11, Maryland**

You might think being in a hurricane was not that big of a deal, but really it was hard to get through without freaking out. The day had been pretty normal. Yes, I knew there was a storm coming, but I thought we'd go to bed that night and everything would be fine. I guess you could say I was wrong.

I was standing in the hallway in my pajamas when the power went off. Then, boom! We didn't know it yet, but our giant "family tree" (the ten-story

oak tree in our yard) had fallen onto our house. My dad was shouting, "Get out! Get out!" I was confused and scared. The only shoes my older brother could find were both for left feet. He put them on anyway and ran out. My dad threw me over his shoulder and ran outside in the cold, wind, and rain. My mom leashed our three dogs and stuffed Blackberry, our cat, into a backpack.

Outside, all I could see were trees swaying in the pitch black. Our neighbor's house was about a football field away. When we got there, my dad put me down and went back outside

to help my mom with the pets. I was crying. Would our dogs get lost? Would my mom and dad get crushed? Luckily, they were all OK.

When the storm cleared, the next morning we could see that the tree had badly damaged our house. My dad called a hotel. We stayed three weeks, and then we moved to an apartment. It was more than a year before our house was rebuilt. I miss our old house, but I love my new room. The truth is, even though things can go wrong, you keep your head up. There can always be a good ending.



The tree was HUGE.

It took a while for our house to be rebuilt.





On the red carpet—check out my puppy purse!

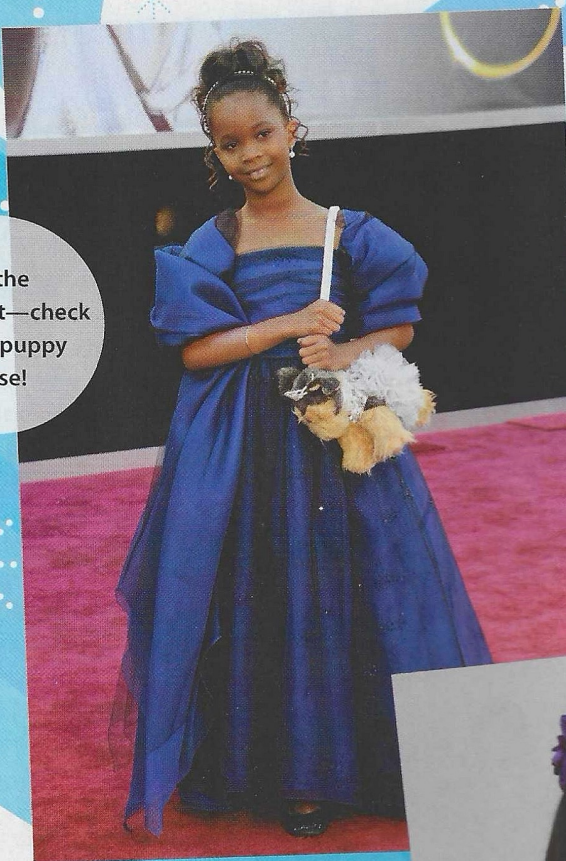


Photo: © MIKE NELSON/epa/Corbis

## ...to be nominated for an Academy Award?

**Quvenzhané W.**

Age 10, Louisiana

You might think being nominated for an Oscar would be my favorite part of acting in a movie, but really the whole experience was amazing. So many fun and unexpected things happened along the way.

I was only five when I auditioned for the movie, and I had never acted before. The movie was filmed near (and sometimes in) the water, so I had to learn to swim. I loved it! On the movie set, everything was new to me, like working with the director. I expected him to just yell, "Do this!" or "Do that!" But he was nice and would ask me what

I thought my character would say or do in certain scenes.

I never expected being an actress could involve so much mud. The movie was set mostly outdoors in the bayou, but I'm kind of a clean person. Between the mud and the mosquitos and the bug spray, I took a lot of baths while making this movie. I did get scared when I had to touch a pig in one scene. But it wasn't so bad. With acting, even when something's hard, it's fun.

After the movie came out,

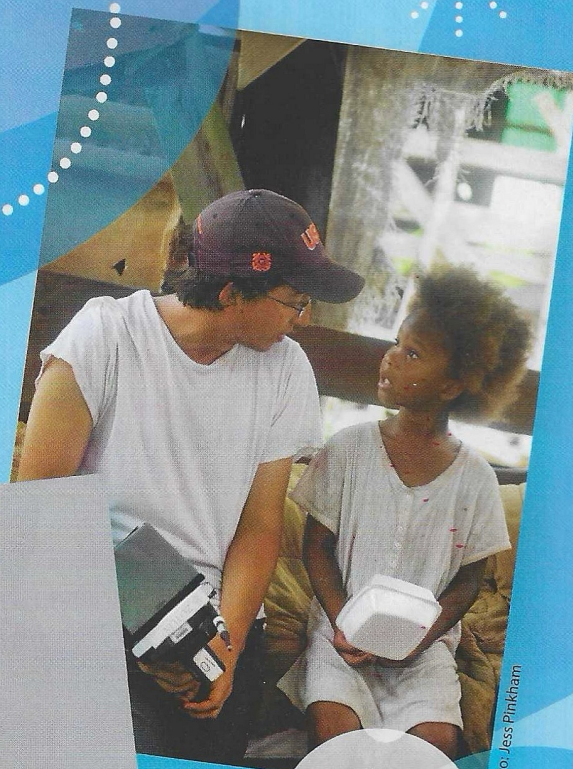


Photo: Jess Pinkham

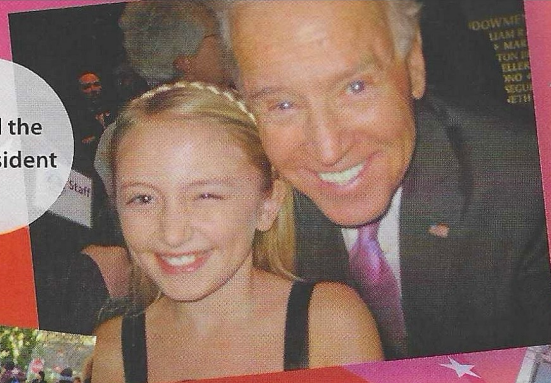
Talking things over with the director on the movie set.

Photo: Todd Williamson

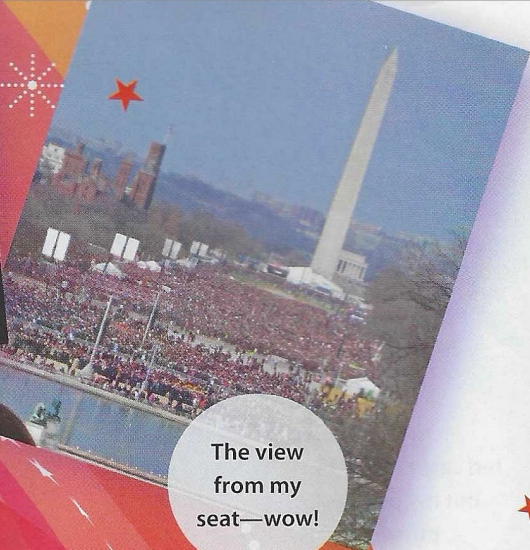
I found out I had been nominated for an Academy Award, which is a huge honor. (I'm the youngest person ever to be nominated for a Best Actress Oscar.) For the award show, I wore a designer gown and carried a designer purse. I didn't win the award, but either way, I'm still a regular girl. I play basketball and volleyball. I love to sing and dance—basically, I like to have fun. To me, fun is the whole point of acting.



Me and the  
vice president



The view  
from my  
seat—wow!



## ...to attend a presidential inauguration?

**Katie F.**

Age 11, California

You might think going to a presidential inauguration would be boring, but really it was amazing. My aunt catered several celebrations during President Barack Obama's second inauguration. We got invited to one of her parties, so off we went to Washington, D.C. The day of the ball, I helped in the kitchen and took pictures. I changed into a fancy dress before the party started.

At one point, Vice President Joe Biden spoke on the stage. I knew he'd be leaving through the kitchen, so I hung out by the door. When he walked by, I held out my hand. Much to my shock, he stopped to chat with me. He was so kind, I thought he must be a grandpa.

The next day we got up at 4:30 a.m. (that's 1:30 a.m. California time!) to attend the swearing-in ceremony. It was so cold, I wore layers of tights, leggings, and jeans plus my jacket, hat, and scarf. It took a long time to get through the security line. We had special tickets to sit on the presidential platform at the U.S. Capitol Building. We saw tons of Secret Service agents there to protect the President. My face was numb, but I didn't care—I was sitting near Olympians, famous singers, and a national television news reporter.

After a long wait, the ceremony started. It was so cool to sit near the president, first lady, and their daughters. From where we sat, the crowd looked like millions of tiny dots. When the ceremony was over, I worked my way down a few rows to sit in President Obama's chair. Talk about seeing history up close—I guess you could say I had a front-row seat!



## ...to dial 911 when your mom gets hurt?

### Skye C.

Age 10, Massachusetts

You might think having to dial 911 in an emergency would be scary, but really it was OK because I knew what to do. One second I was sitting on a rock watching my mom train a horse. The next second, she went flying backward when the horse kicked her. She landed on the ground, rolled over, got up on her knees, and held her face in her hands. The horse ran off.

I was in a bit of shock. I yelled to my mom and asked if she was all right. She didn't answer. Instead, she ran inside the house. I was scared, but I knew my mom would want me to make sure the horse was safe. I led him back to the barn. He's not mean or scary or anything—some-

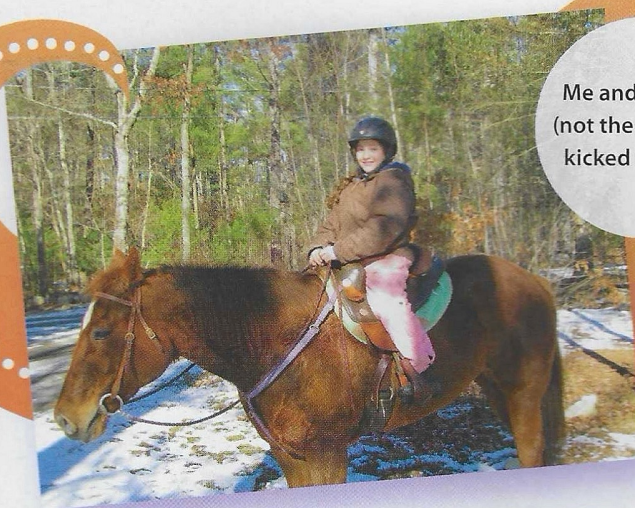
times accidents just happen.

Once I put him in a stall, I ran inside. My mom did not look OK. I called 911 and told the operator what had happened. The ambulance came and drove us a short distance to where a helicopter was waiting to take my mom to the hospital. In the ambulance, I called my mom's friend, who came and took me to the hospital, too.

I was crying and so scared and

shaking. Would my mom be OK? After surgery and five days in the hospital, she came home. I was so happy to have her back. She was riding and training horses again after about six weeks.

Later on, I couldn't believe it when the fire marshal gave me an award for how I handled the emergency and helped my mom. One thing's for sure: she can always count on me.



Me and Chammy (not the horse that kicked my mom)

## ...to be the only girl on an all-boys team?

### Nadia D.

Age 13, New York

You might think being the only girl on an all-boys baseball team is intimidating, but really it's fun. I love playing shortstop and standing on the pitcher's mound, hurling fastballs and striking people out. When I'm pitching, my catcher gives me signals. We help each other out. Once I struck out 19 players in a row, which not everybody can do. But for me to succeed, it's all about teamwork.

My catcher is my cousin, but all of my teammates are like family to me. We all support each other. Like when I pick up

my bat and get ready to hit during a big game, sometimes I get nervous. But my teammates will pat me on the back and yell my name. They call me "Big Mama." When I hear their voices, I feel confident. They're my friends, even if they are all boys.

I've been playing baseball for six years. Our coach is also my dad. We practice every day at the park near our house. My dad is strict and wants us to do our best.

I take advice he gives me and bring it to my game. Last year, my team won a

championship. But it's not always about winning. He also tells us to just smile and have fun. We love to get ice cream after practice. Every year, baseball brings me and my dad closer.

Some people say girls can't play baseball. Hearing that doesn't get me mad. Instead, it makes me play harder. I want to be known for being a good player, not just for being the girl. If you're a girl who wants to play ball, I say play your heart out! ★



Batter up!

Photo: John Berry



# Apple Snacks

Turn a favorite fall fruit into a tangy snack or sweet dessert!



## Fall Float



Cider plus ice cream equals a creamy dessert! Pour apple cider into a microwave-safe mug. Ask an adult to heat the cider in the microwave until it's warm. Add a scoop of ice cream to the cider and top with a swirl of caramel syrup.



# Mini Pies:

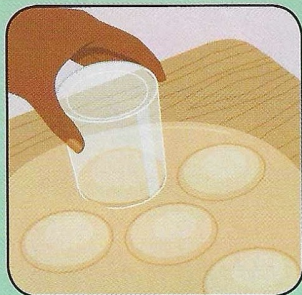
Make apple pies by the dozen!

## Instructions:

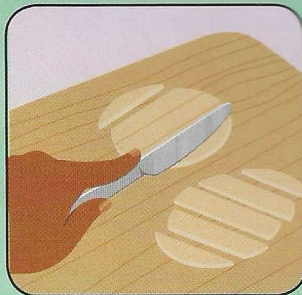


Ask an adult to core 12 apples and slice a small section off each apple's top. Place the apples in a muffin tin with foil muffin liners. (You may need to use a jumbo muffin tin for larger apples.) Put a dab of butter inside each apple along with a pinch of brown sugar and cinnamon. Then top them off with fancy pie crusts. Bake the apples in a preheated 400-degree oven for 10–15 minutes. Ask an adult to remove the apples from the oven and let cool.

## Pie Crust How-To:



**1.** Roll out a refrigerated pie crust on a cutting board. Cut out circles using a drinking glass or biscuit cutter. You will need 2 circles per apple.



**2.** Use a butter knife to slice each dough circle into 5 strips. You will use only the 3 center strips from each circle.



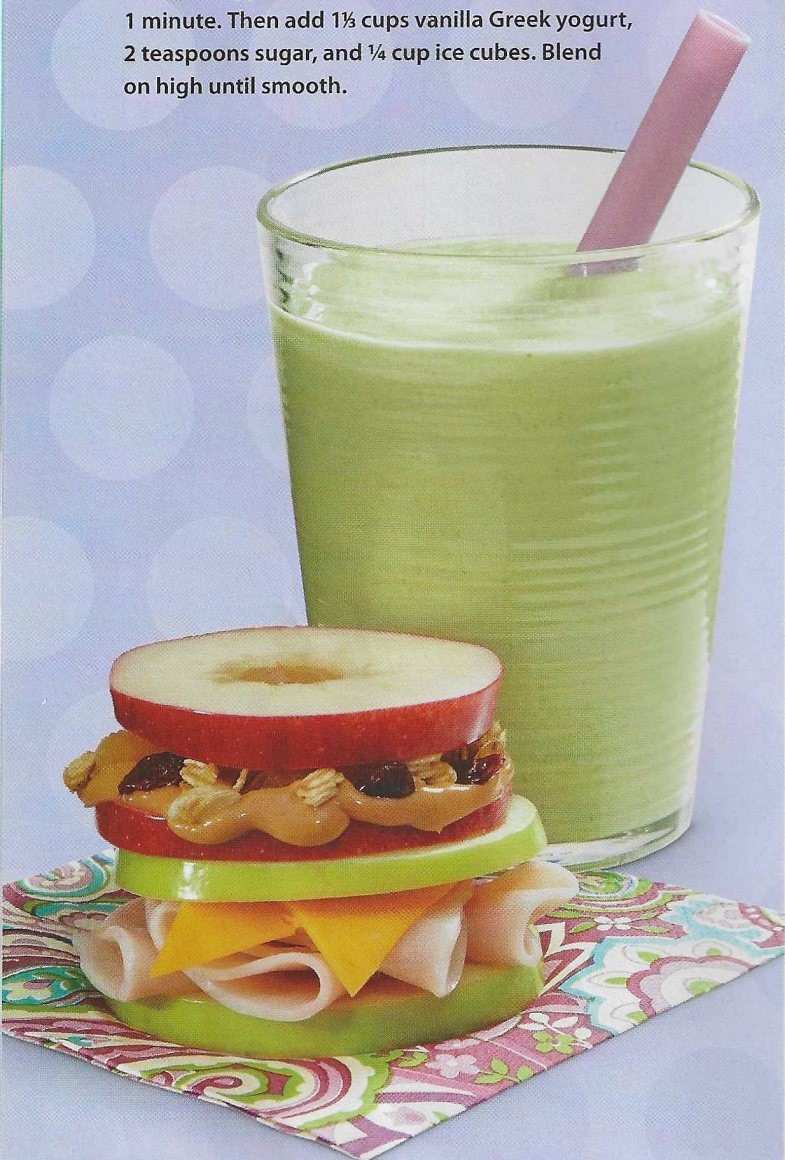
**3.** Lay 3 dough strips on top of an apple with space between each one. Then weave 3 other strips between the first layer of strips, one at a time.





# Green Apple Smoothie

 Go green with a sweet smoothie! Place  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup milk and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup fresh spinach in a blender. Ask an adult to blend on high for 1 minute. Add 1 cored, chopped apple and 1 banana and blend on high for 1 minute. Then add  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups vanilla Greek yogurt, 2 teaspoons sugar, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup ice cubes. Blend on high until smooth.



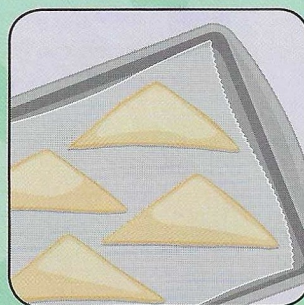
# Apple Sandwiches

 These crunchy sandwiches are made for snacking. Ask an adult to remove the core from an apple. Then have the adult cut the apple in thin, horizontal slices. Top one apple slice with your choice of ingredients and place another apple slice on top. For a sweet sandwich, try peanut butter, dried fruit, and granola. For a savory snack, try turkey and cheddar cheese.

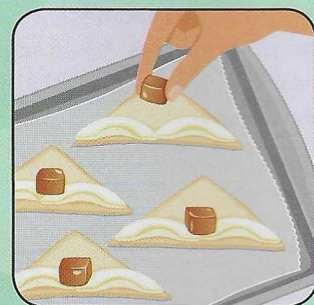


# Caramel Apple Wraps

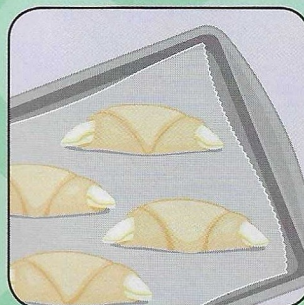
 Bake a dessert with a caramel apple hidden inside.



**1.** Start with 1 (8 oz.) package of refrigerated crescent-roll dough. Separate each dough triangle and lay flat on a cookie sheet covered with parchment paper. Unwrap 8 soft caramel candies and set aside.



**2.** Ask an adult to core and slice 2 apples into 8 sections each. Place 2 apple slices and a caramel candy at the long edge of each dough triangle.



**3.** Roll up the apples and caramel in the dough. (Make sure each apple wrap is spaced evenly on the cookie sheet.)

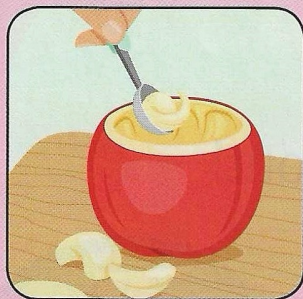


**4.** Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven for 10–15 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool slightly before eating.

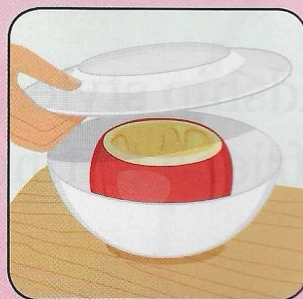


# Cran-apple Oatmeal.

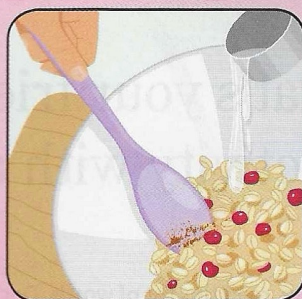
 Cook oatmeal in an apple bowl for an afternoon snack. Try it for breakfast, too!



**1.** Ask an adult to slice off the top of a large apple. Use a melon baller to scoop out some of the apple's inside. (You may need an adult's help removing the core.)



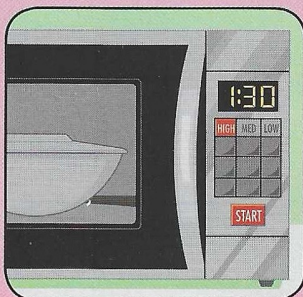
**2.** Place the apple upright in a microwave-safe bowl and cover with a lid. Heat the apple in the microwave for 1 minute.



**3.** In a separate bowl, mix together  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup quick oats,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup water, 1 tablespoon dried cranberries, and 1 teaspoon brown sugar.



**4.** Ask an adult to remove the cover from the bowl and set aside. Carefully pour the oatmeal mixture into the apple.



**5.** Heat the apple and oatmeal on high for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  minutes. Ask an adult to remove the bowl from the microwave. Let the apple oatmeal cool for a few minutes. Then dig in! ★



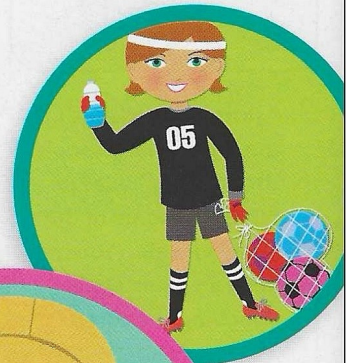


# Two of a Kind

What's your friendship style?  
Do this activity with a friend to find out!



To begin, read this list of words. Decide if each word describes you, your friend, both of you, or neither. Then write the word in the correct section of the diagram on the next page. (If the word describes neither of you, don't write it in the diagram.)



funny  
energetic  
helpful  
playful  
quiet

sporty  
chatty  
silly  
responsible  
outgoing  
cautious  
excitable  
caring  
stylish  
cheerful



punctual  
serious  
shy  
loud  
creative  
fearless



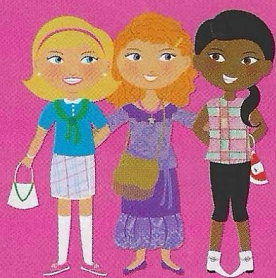


You

Your friend

Both

Now, count  
how many words  
you wrote in the  
middle section....



**0-3 words**

You like hanging out with people completely different from you. This is good because you'll always be challenged and will constantly learn new things about yourself.

## Answers



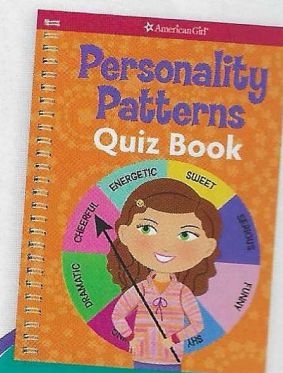
**4-6 words**

You enjoy sharing interests with your friends. This means that whenever you want to try a new hobby, at least one of your friends will want to do it with you.



**6 words or more**

You seek out people really similar to you. You like knowing that your friends are always going to be up for the same things you are—you think life is more fun that way!



More quizzes can  
be found in the  
**Personality  
Patterns Quiz  
Book.** ★



# September

## Sunday



Photo: iStockphoto/Thinkstock

1

**It's Grandparents' Day.** Celebrate by writing your grandparents a heartfelt letter, taking them out for a treat, or talking to them over video chat.

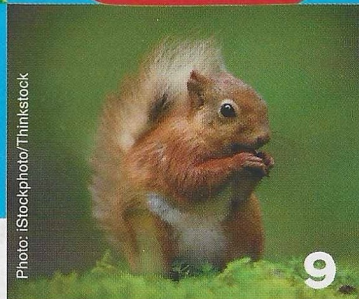
8

## Monday

Teachers are pretty great, so why not give yours a sweet gift? With an apple, include a container of caramel or chocolate dip or even a package of gummy worms. Put the items in a clear bag and tie with a ribbon.

2

Photo: iStockphoto/Thinkstock



9

## Tuesday

GO WITH the FLOW!



3

Feeling stressed at school? You can take a mental vacation every time you open your locker. Put up pictures and words that make you feel cool and calm.

10

Spend the afternoon creating new outfits for school from clothes you already have. Put bright colors together, layer things in unexpected ways, or mix patterns. Snap pictures of your favorites!

15



16

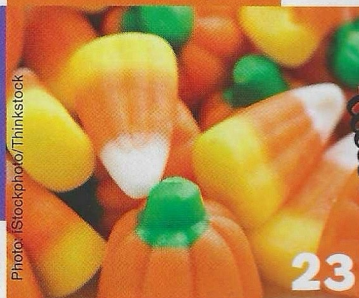
Start a fun after-school club with your pals. Create a fan club for a favorite book character, work on a comic strip together, or make a five-minute movie every week.

17

Happy first day of fall!

22

Photo: iStockphoto/Thinkstock



23

Today, draw a self-portrait or one of a family member, friend, or pet using only "fall-ish" colors such as red, orange, and yellow.

29

Halloween is about a month away! Get into a spooky mood with AG's Halloween Dreams (between pages 24 and 25).

30

Stay organized with color-coordinated school supplies. Match a notebook and folder with every subject. On each folder, fasten a binder clip and slide a pencil in it. That way, you'll always have something to write with.

24

Cap Do To



# Fall into autumn fun with these activities!

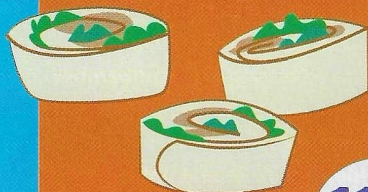
## Wednesday

 Make "sandwich sushi" for lunch.

Spread cream cheese on a tortilla. Pile ingredients, such as turkey and cheese, on the tortilla. Roll it and cover with plastic wrap. Chill overnight, and ask a parent to slice.



4



11

## Thursday

There's a **new moon** tonight—perfect for heading to your backyard with your family for some moonlight-free stargazing.



5

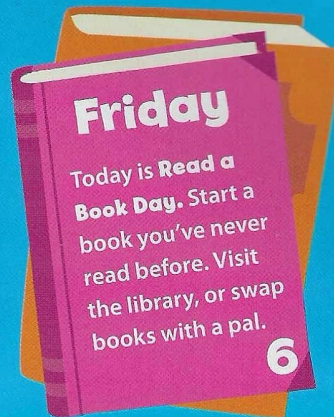
Photo: iStockphoto/Thinkstock



12

## Friday

Today is **Read a Book Day**. Start a book you've never read before. Visit the library, or swap books with a pal.



6

Uh-oh—it's **Friday the 13th!** Go against the unluckiness of this day and make a list of 13 things you're lucky to have.



13

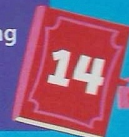
## Saturday



Photo: iStockphoto/Thinkstock

7

Keep a school diary. Write about tough tests, friend problems, and goals you've reached. Before the next school year, look back to see if you can learn anything from it. It could help you have a better year.



14

Hang a small blackboard (found at craft or discount stores) in your room. When it's time to study, use it to "teach" the lesson to your stuffed animals, a pet, or an imaginary audience. Teaching will help you learn the info, too.

18

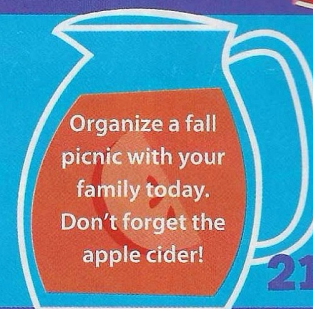


19

If your mind wanders during class, use your senses to snap out of it. Focus on how your desk feels, the smell of the chalkboard, and the words your teacher is saying. You'll be back to reality in no time.

20

Organize a fall picnic with your family today. Don't forget the apple cider!

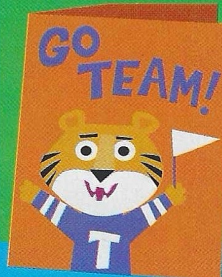


21

Do you have a friend or sibling with a big game coming up? Make an encouraging card for him or her. Use school colors, and draw the mascot, too.

25

26



27

All this game needs is a football and friends. Gather into a circle. Then pass the football around the circle—without using your hands! See how long you can keep it going without dropping the ball.

28

Photo: iStockphoto/Thinkstock





# OCTOBER

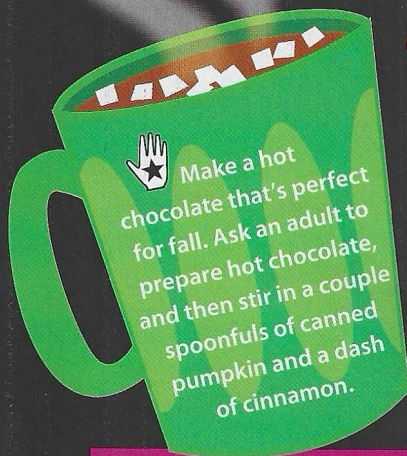
## To Do Today



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY



Make a hot chocolate that's perfect for fall. Ask an adult to prepare hot chocolate, and then stir in a couple spoonfuls of canned pumpkin and a dash of cinnamon.

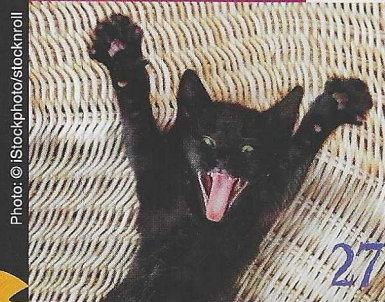
6



13

Proudly display your art class creations. Tack a piece of string on a corkboard and hang drawings with small clothespins. Place a mini masterpiece on a tiny easel (found at craft stores). Or put art on one wall to make a gallery.

20



27



Sit with someone new at lunch today! It might be the beginning of an awesome friendship.

7



14

Photo: iStockphoto/Thinkstock



1

Listen to music while you study and try this. During the first song, read the facts. During the next song, try to remember the info without looking. When the song's finished, you can look again. Repeat until you know your stuff.

8

In honor of **National Cake Decorating Day**, ask a friend over to decorate cupcakes. Make Halloween-themed treats by drawing scary faces with frosting.



15



21

Have fun making no-carve pumpkins. Use the ideas on pages 30–33, create stripes with pieces of duct tape, or make pretty patterns with adhesive rhinestones.

22

It feels good when your teacher gives you a sticker on a test. Why not give yourself stickers? Keep a sheet of glittery stickers and take one when you're proud of yourself. Put it on your hand or notebook.

28



Make a fall trail mix for an after-school snack. Combine cinnamon-flavored cereal, apple chips, and raisins.

29







## WEDNESDAY

## THURSDAY

## FRIDAY

## SATURDAY



Play this game with a group of friends. Provide a box of silly clothes, accessories, and props. Pick a judge and set a timer for one minute. Each girl has to quickly create a Halloween costume. The judge will pick her favorite!

It's **World Smile Day**. Grin at everyone you pass by in the hallway and watch those frowns turn upside down.



Make a trick-or-treat bag. On a plain tote, draw a web using puffy paint. Let dry. Brush glitter paint all over a plastic spider (found at craft or discount stores). Let dry. Attach to the center of the web with craft glue.



Make a "rainbow" lunch. When you pack it, be sure to include every color. Brilliant!

Come up with a phrase that'll give you a lift when you doubt yourself. Write it on a notecard and look at it before taking a hard quiz or standing up to a bully—any time your confidence is put to the test.



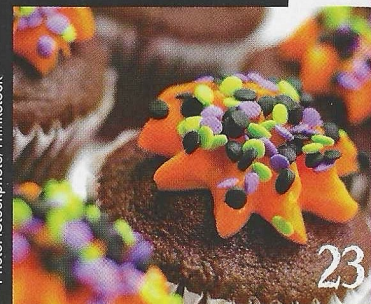
Photo: iStockphoto/Shutterstock.com



Are you groggy before school? Pick a song that's sure to energize you every morning. Listen to it whenever you need a boost.

Celebrate **National Pizza Month** by making a "pumpkin" pizza. Spread pizza sauce and sprinkle cheese on a pre-made crust, and then arrange pepperoni pieces to look like a jack-o'-lantern face. Ask an adult to bake.

It's **Sweetest Day!** Be extra sweet to your family today. Help your mom rake leaves, tell your dad he's the greatest, or play make-believe with your little sister or brother.

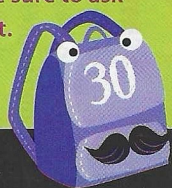


Your backpack can wear a costume, too! Attach googly-eye stickers or cut a mustache from adhesive felt and put it on your bag. Be sure to ask permission first.

Have a **frightfully fun Halloween!** ★



Host a haunted dinner party. Invite your family to eat eyeballs (grapes), snakes (spaghetti), and graveyard dirt (chocolate cake). Create an eerie atmosphere with dim lights and creepy music.





# Stand Up to a Bully

OK, so there's no one magic way to make a person stop picking on you...but you do have options.





## Just ignore it.

Ignoring can work with some bullies. If someone is picking on you, do your best to look bored—a bully wants a reaction, so don't give one. To prepare, practice your best bored face in front of a mirror.

**When ignoring works, it works quickly. So if the bullying continues...**

**Not that bad**—it doesn't get in the way of my life.

**Bad.**

**Awful**—so bad that sometimes I stay home to avoid the bully.

## Stand up for yourself.

Sometimes you have to let a person know that you are not OK with what she's doing. The trick is to do it in a way that makes the bullying stop without starting a fight.

## Tell an adult.

This is the way to go when you've tried everything else or if the bully is hurting you. (Or even threatening to hurt you.) Tell a parent, teacher, or other trusted adult what has been happening. Give details, and ask to make a plan for dealing with the problem.

**And no matter what else happens...**

## Stay strong.

Being bullied is the worst. If it happens to you, keep your chin up. Remember, this should not be happening to you, but you are strong enough to stop it. ★

### Here are some words to try:

"I can't believe you just said that."  
"Wow, you must be having a bad day."  
"That doesn't even make sense."  
"Nice."  
"Really?"  
"Well, good thing this is a free country."  
"and even"  
"This is bullying. Are you sure you want to keep doing it?"

**If the bully still won't back down...**





# Sticker Treat

Dress up a plain pumpkin with foam  
stickers you can make yourself!

*by Kristi Thom*





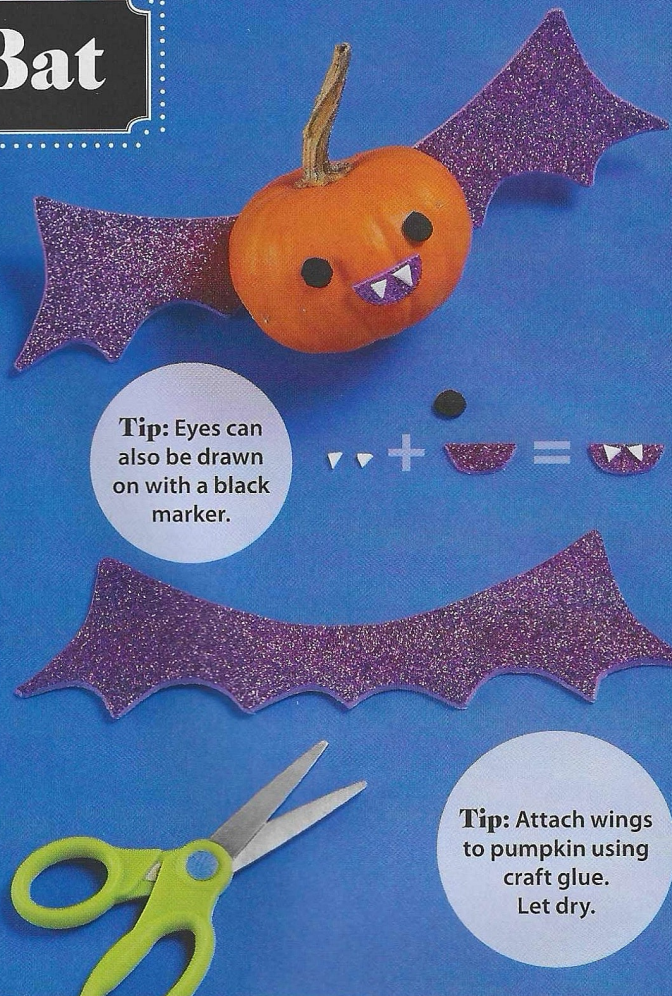




# Instructions

1. Before you begin, cover your work surface with a disposable tablecloth.
2. Use self-adhesive craft foam to make the stickers. Draw the shapes you'll need on the paper side of the craft foam and carefully cut them out.
3. Remove the paper backing and stick the shapes to a clean, dry pumpkin. If a piece doesn't stick well, use craft glue to keep it in place. You can also make stickers from non-adhesive craft foam and attach them with craft glue.

## Bat



## Cat



## Ghost





# Monster

**Tip:** Look for a monster wig at a craft store or in the costume section of a discount store.



**Tip:** Cut a big black half-circle first, then snip the eyelashes along one side.



**Tip:** Use a marker to draw a scar and a beauty mark.



# Witch

**Tip:** Attach crinkle paper with double-stick tape.

**Tip:** Cut a big black circle first, then snip the eyelashes along one side.

**Tip:** To make circles, trace around objects such as cups, lids, or even coins.



**Tip:** Paint the pumpkin with green non-toxic craft paint. Let dry. Add a second coat and let dry again. ★





# The Good Vibes Club

by Carolyn Mackler

School





# Mayzie wasn't too worried about all the teasing at recess—until she became the next victim.

**R**ecess stinks. I don't care that seventh graders like my sister, Jamie, say how they loved gossiping at the Grapevine during fifth-grade recess. I think it's the worst part of the day.

It comes after lunch, when everyone stampedes out of the cafeteria, pumped on grape juice and brownies. The teachers herd all forty of us onto this sprawling lawn. They say we're supposed to be playing. But playing in public is just not cool anymore. It's only three weeks into the school year and I've already figured out that fifth grade is about looking mature, acting like you're in junior high.

Most girls spend recess at the Grapevine, which is a chain-link fence on one edge of the school yard. Sometimes I hang out there, sketching in my notebook or practicing my signature—Mayzie Richmond. I don't have much to contribute to the conversation, since all they talk about is who's wearing what today and who's going to wear what tomorrow. Jamie is always telling me I need to get into clothes. But I can't help it that I'm more excited about brand-new art supplies than brand-name jeans.

The teachers say kickball is the official sport of recess. But the real sport is teasing other kids. It started on the fourth day of school. So far there's been a new victim every week. You never know who it's going to be or when or why.

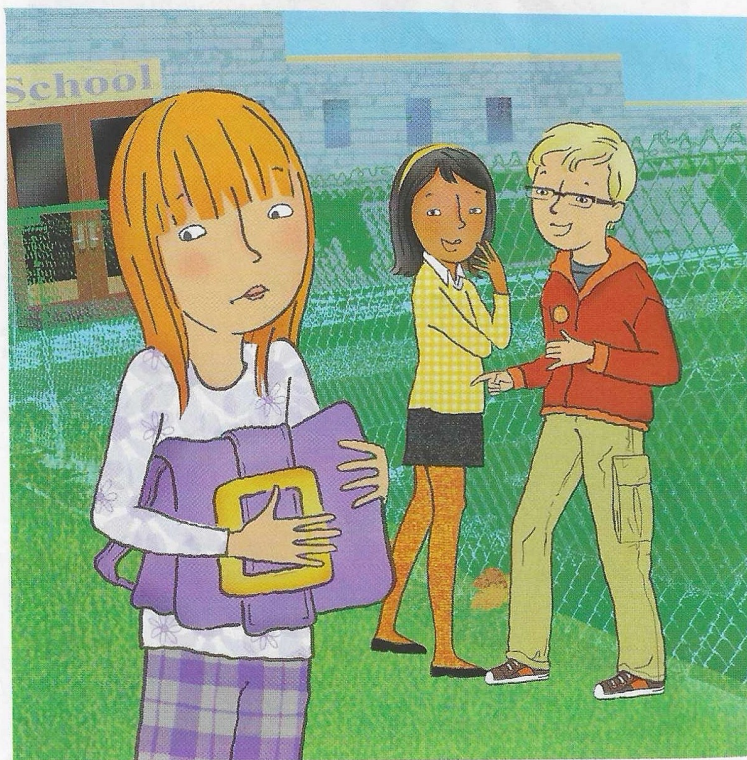
The first victim was Trish.

"Look at Trish's purse!" a girl shouted at recess two weeks ago.

"It's a putrid pigskin purse," a boy said as he shoved his glasses up the bridge of his nose.

Trish is skinny and has overly long bangs. On that particular Monday, she was toting a purple purse with a brass buckle. It was definitely ugly, but it's not like I was going to say anything.

The next day, Trish left the purse at home. Even so, she couldn't walk onto the schoolyard that entire week without someone joking about how she'd committed a fashion felony.





Trish told her mom who told the principal who told the teachers to tell the fifth graders to cool it or else. It sort of worked, but every so often someone coughs “putrid” under his or her breath and Trish’s eyes squint up like she’s going to sneeze.

The second victim was Alex.

“Alex is wearing concealer!” a tall guy blurted out during recess last week.

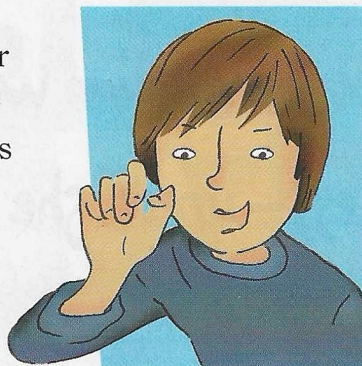
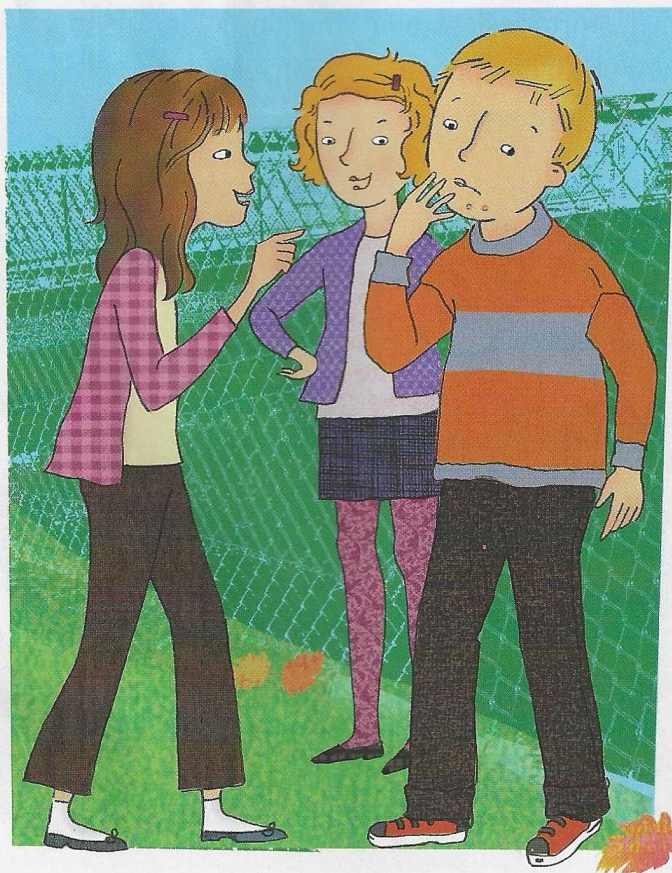
As Alex lowered his flushing face, another kid chimed in, “What is it? Mosquito bites? Or *bedbugs*?”

Alex and I used to eat lunch together in fourth grade, when boys and girls could hang out without people gossiping about it. He was the first kid in our class to get zits. And on that particular day in September, he had cover-up smeared on his chin.

The following day, Alex had skipped the cover-up. But that didn’t stop kids from taunting him.

“So did you break out?” A girl nodded at Alex’s bumpy chin. “Or is it mosquito bites?”

A guy pantomimed pointing a squirt bottle



toward Alex’s face and said, “I think you need some bug spray!”

Halfway through recess, Alex went to the nurse’s office. He told the teacher he had a sore throat, but you could tell he was shaken up about

being the victim of the week.

And now, on a warm Tuesday in late September, it’s me.

“Mayzie is talking to herself!” Gina barked across the schoolyard.

My head shot up. I was sitting cross-legged in the grass, the autumn sun toasting my shoulders, as I opened the padded envelope from my cousin, Leesa. My cousin is nineteen and the coolest person on the planet. By cool, I’m not talking about clothes and hair. I’m talking about real cool. Leesa’s got a wacky sense of humor and she dances when there’s no music playing. We have a special cousin bond because we have the same hazel-colored eyes and we’re both artists. Leesa says that she and I are kindred spirits.

This is why, when she went away to school in California last year, we decided to make collages together. We’re already on our third. It starts by her mailing me a piece of tagboard with something on it—a magazine cutout or a sketch or some glittery words. I add one thing and send it back to her, and then she adds one thing and sends it back to me and so on, until the entire canvas is filled up.

Yesterday afternoon I received the ongoing collage from Leesa. I’d brought it with me to school in the hopes of stopping by the art room and doing my part. I kept laughing when I looked at Leesa’s latest addition. It was a photograph of a highway





rest stop with a sign out front that says, “Children with gas eat free.” Obviously, it was supposed to mean that if you fill your tank, your kids get a free meal. But it sounds like...well...that’s exactly what was cracking me up as I peeked at it during recess.

“Crazy Mayzie! Crazy Mayzie!” a chorus of girls shrieked, drawing air-circles around their ears with their fingers.

I was tempted to yell back, “Oh, gee, what an original nickname! You think I’ve gone through

**Y**ou think I’ve gone through ten years of life without anyone realizing that “Mayzie” rhymes with “crazy”?

So there I was, laughing to myself, when Gina caught me in the act. I knew I was in trouble right away. Gina has curly hair and a ski-jump nose, and she’s the meanest kid in fifth grade.

“Look at Mayzie!” Gina shouted, pointing at me. “Did you see her talking to herself?”

ten years of life without anyone realizing that ‘Mayzie’ rhymes with ‘crazy’? You guys are a real gang of Einsteins.”

But my throat was too tight to speak. I stuffed the envelope into my backpack and dug my fingers into the ground.





**T**hat afternoon, I found my mom working at her computer.

"Mom? Can you talk?"

She clicked save and glanced at me.

I stared at my fingernails. They were crammed with half-moons of dirt. "Some kids made fun of me at recess."

My mom's eyes crinkled. "What happened?"

"I laughed out loud while I was looking at the collage from Leesa, so they started saying I talk to myself. But I wasn't even talking. I was just laughing. It's so stupid."

"Ignore them, sweetie," my mom said. "They're probably doing it to see if they'll get a reaction. I'm sure they'll forget by tomorrow."

I picked some dirt out from under my thumbnail and flicked it to the floor.

That night, when I went into the bathroom to brush my teeth, Jamie was hogging the mirror. Jamie and I both have frizzy hair. She goes at hers like a lion tamer—glopping in gel, blow-drying it straight. I pretty much leave mine alone.

"Jamie?"

"Yeah?"

"Did anyone ever tease you when you were in fifth grade?"

Jamie parted her hair to one side and studied her new look. "You mean at recess?"

I nodded.

"Oh, no," she said, shaking her head as she picked up a hot curling iron.

"What?"

"I'm sorry to say it, Maze, but you're a goner for the rest of the week. Maybe longer."

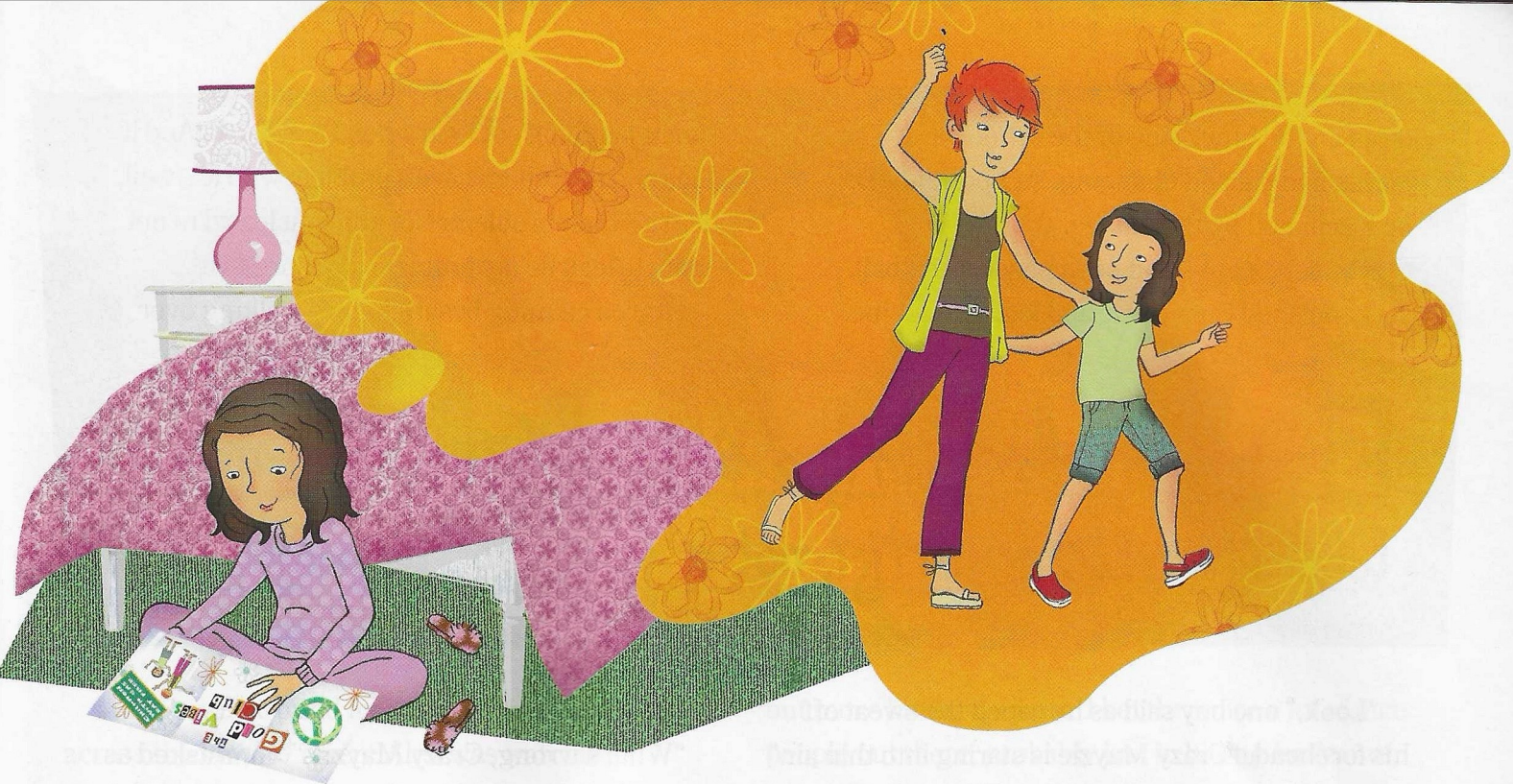
My stomach lurched. "Is there anything I can do?"

Jamie aimed the curling iron toward my head. "You can try harder to fit in, have Mom take you to the mall, do something about your hair. That might work."

**"I'm sorry to say it, Maze, but you're a goner for the rest of the week. Maybe longer."**

I retreated into the doorway. My sister frequently scorches her neck with the curling iron. I don't care what they say about the price of beauty. I don't want to pay.





Just before I went to bed, I took the envelope from Leesa out of my backpack. I sat on the rug and pulled out the collage. This time, I didn't laugh when I saw "Children with gas eat free." I wasn't exactly in a laughing mood. Instead, I studied all the artwork on the collage. We've been making this one since May and it's about two-thirds done. A few weeks ago, Leesa had written in silvery ink across the top "The Good Vibes Cousins." And next to it she'd drawn a picture of the two of us making the peace sign with our fingers.

That's just like Leesa. She's always talking peace and vibes. I once asked her what she meant by vibes.

"Vibes is short for vibrations," she said. "It's basically the feeling you get from someone. Nice people give off good vibes. People want to hang out with them. They feel happy and safe around them."

"What about bad vibes?" I asked. "How can you tell if someone has bad vibes?"

Leesa shook her head. "Sometimes it's hard to tell at first. Everyone might think they're funny or popular. But the truth generally comes out. In the

long run, people who give off bad vibes won't find themselves with a lot of friends."

I ran my fingers across Leesa's silver words. I wondered what she'd say about what happened at recess today. She once told me that you have to be yourself even if it means being different from others. And if people have a problem with it, then they're the ones with the problem.

I slid the collage back into the envelope. As I crawled into bed, I felt a teensy bit better for the first time since recess.

Even so, I had nightmares about Gina's nostrils in my face, and I heard her cackling as she sang, "Crazy Mayzie, Crazy Mayzie, Crazy Mayzie."

**T**he next day at recess, word spread about me. I took my mom's advice and ignored everyone. I'd had an ice cream sandwich at lunch and it felt cold in my stomach. When Gina and the other girls joked about how I talk to myself, I stared at a cluster of



trees on the other side of the schoolyard. The leaves had started changing, so I pretended to be fascinated by the foliage.

A bunch of guys had been playing kickball. They finished their game and jogged past me.

I am is laughing out loud when I feel like it. And if Gina and the others have a problem with it...well, then it's their problem. Not mine. At least I'm not going to let it be my problem anymore.

I took a calming breath before walking over

**S**o maybe who I am is a little different. So maybe who I am is an artist, not a gossip or a clothes nut.

"Look," one boy said as he wiped the sweat off his forehead. "Crazy Mayzie is staring into thin air."

I continued looking at the trees, acting like I hadn't heard him.

"Guess she's deaf as well as crazy," another kid said, and they all cracked up.

I held my breath to keep from crying. I could taste the vanilla ice cream in my throat as I chanted *Ignore, ignore, ignore* over and over in my head.

Before recess on Thursday, I thought about what Jamie had told me, about how I should try harder to fit in. As everyone shoved out of the cafeteria, I scrambled into the bathroom and doused my hair with a palmful of water, smoothing out the frizz.

But as soon as I stepped onto the schoolyard, Gina sneered, "Look at Crazy Mayzie's hair!"

"I bet she was trying to drink," shouted a girl with freckles, "but she's too crazy to know where her mouth is."

They both snickered. My stomach was in knots. I felt like I was going to either cry or actually go crazy. But then I thought about what Leesa had said, about how you have to be who you are. So maybe who I am is a little different. So maybe who I am is an artist, not a gossip or a clothes nut. So maybe who

to the Grapevine.

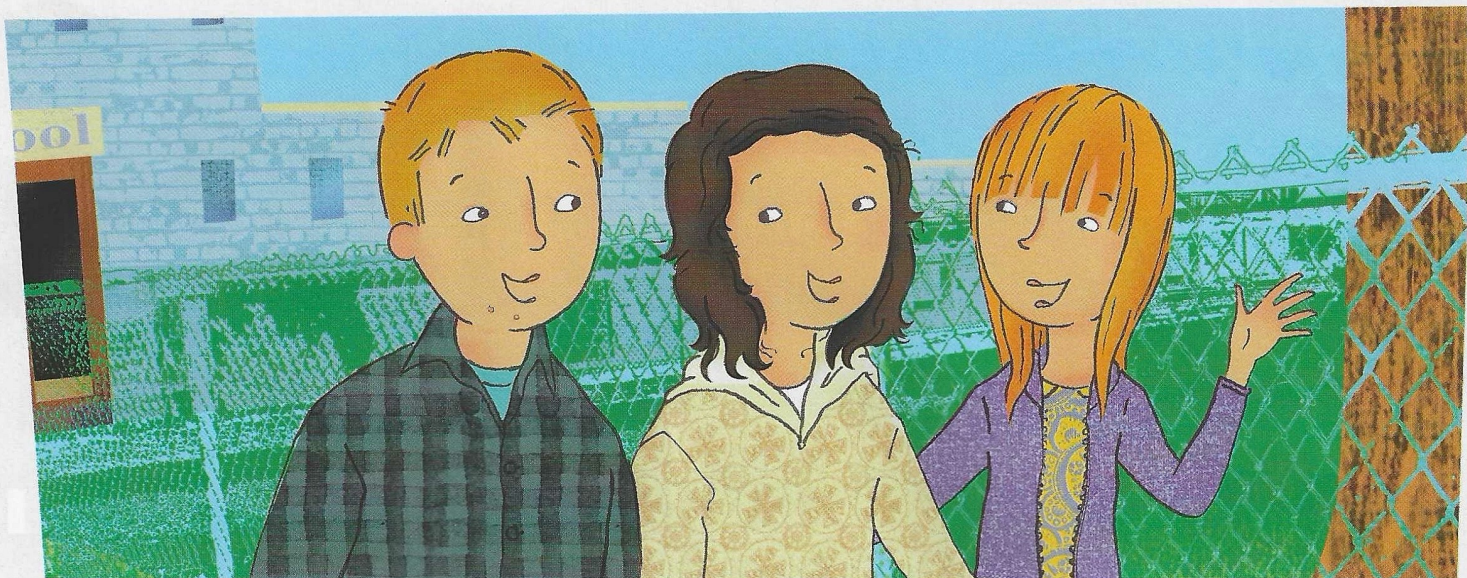
"What's wrong, Crazy Mayzie?" Gina asked as she slid on a layer of lip gloss. "Get lost on the recess yard?"

"Actually," I said, "I came over here to tell you that if you've ever heard of vibes, you give off some seriously bad ones. So why don't you quit saying things about me. Because I don't care, OK? I couldn't care less."

Gina gawked at me, the lip gloss still clutched in her fingers.







I didn't wait around for her response. I walked across the lawn to where Alex was watching the kickball game. Ever since the mosquito-bite incident, no one's chosen him for their team.

"Hey, Alex!" I called out. "Want to take a walk?"

"Sure," he said, shrugging. "Why not?"

Alex and I headed toward the trees. I searched the ground for red and orange leaves. I've decided I want to iron one between waxed paper and glue it to the collage before sending it back to Leesa.

As Alex and I were walking, we passed Trish sitting on the grass by herself. She had an open book in her lap, but you could tell she wasn't reading.

"Trish?" I asked.

She pushed her bangs out of her eyes and glanced up at me.

"Want to walk with us?"

"OK!" she said. She sprang up so quickly, she reminded me of a jack-in-the-box.

Alex and Trish and I chatted about school and what was on TV last night. As I picked up a bright yellow leaf, I thought about how maybe I should form a group. I'd call it the Good Vibes Club. The initial members would be Alex and Trish and me. We'd stick together at recess and continually scout

out more kindred spirits. I bet there are a lot of nice people out there, probably just in hiding for fear of being the next victim. Whenever we found someone, we could invite that person to join us. The only rule of membership would be No Teasing.

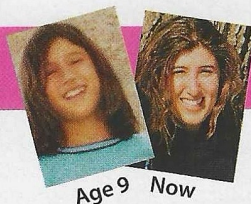
I did some quick calculations. There are forty kids in the fifth grade. If we spotted a new kindred spirit every week, the Good Vibes Club could have twenty-plus members by February.

And then we'd outnumber the mean kids.

And then recess wouldn't stink after all. ★



## Meet the Author



*Carolyn Mackler*

When I was in fifth grade, some girls bullied me during recess. It was so hard to figure out how to handle it. I wish I'd had a cousin like Leesa to tell me all about vibes.



## Scare Flair

It's Halloween night!  
Use these ghoulish clues to solve the puzzle.

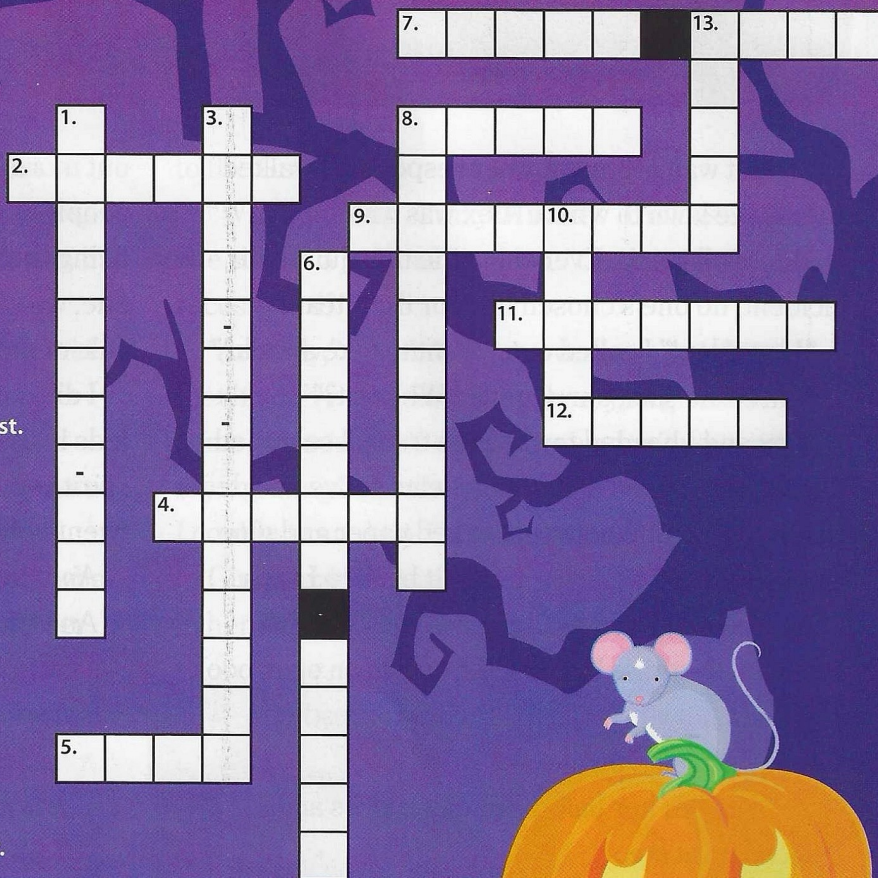


### Across

2. If you jump in front of your friend and say "Boo!", she might do this.
4. You'll be a master of disguise after you put this on your face for Halloween.
5. This might cast shadows and make things look extra spooky.
7. This treat has orange, yellow, and white stripes.
8. You might see one of these in a haunted house.
9. If you want to get candy, you need to push this first.
11. People use fake ones for Halloween decorations, but there might be real ones in your attic.
12. Your mom might not like it if you call her this on Halloween.

### Down

1. You might call a jittery feline this.
3. He has a first name, and orange is totally his color.
6. Don't eat one of these if you have braces.
8. You might get these when it's cold outside or when something gives you the creeps.
10. You might use this to clean your house, but did you know it can fly, too?
13. This is something that babies and spiders do.





✂ Posters Carefully cut along the dotted lines to remove your posters. ★

*Orange  
you  
cute?*

★ American Girl®

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# What a HOOT!



Photo: Jupiterimages/Photos.com/Thinkstock

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# HELP!

**Dear American Girl,**

I pick up bad words at school. Then, without meaning to, I sometimes use them in front of my family! It's HORRIBLE. How do I stop?  
*bad language*

Apologize immediately. ("I didn't mean to say that! I am so sorry.") That way, no one will think you *meant* to swear. Work on this habit by taking a deep breath and thinking before you speak, especially when angry or surprised. Also, don't secretly use bad words at times you won't get caught—that helps them slip out when you don't mean for them to!



**Dear American Girl,**

My list has a lot of people on it, but I can only invite five to my birthday party. They're all good friends. How can I choose?

*Confused*

Talk to your parents about your birthday plans. Explain that picking only some friends might cause friendship problems for you, and ask if there's a way to compromise. Could you do a simpler party with more people, such as meeting at a pizza place instead of having a sleepover? Changing your party plans to include more friends could avoid some hurt feelings and fights.



**Dear American Girl,**

I'm going to have a lot more schoolwork this year. How can I keep it all organized in my backpack?

*a lot of stuff to carry*

Choose two folders that have colors to help you remember that they contain important papers. Label one TO DO and the other DONE. Every assignment you get in school, from homework to permission slips, goes in TO DO throughout the day. Check the TO DO folder at home to see what work you have, and make sure you put everything into DONE when it's finished. Good luck this year!



**Dear American Girl,**

I'm afraid to tell my teacher that I have lost the book we're reading for a class assignment. What will she do to me?

*help me out!*

A great way to own up to a mistake: Don't hide it, and do have a plan for fixing it. Try: "Ms. Walsh, I've misplaced my book, and I'm sorry. I'll keep looking for it. In the meantime, I asked my mom to help me find a copy at the library so that I can keep up with the class." That way, you've admitted losing the book but not made it your teacher's problem. She probably won't be too upset.





## MORE HELP!

### Dear American Girl,

There's a girl in our grade who always follows us around. We don't like her because she's annoying and always getting in our business. How can we get her to play with someone else without hurting her feelings?

#### Four Friends

You four need to be careful because this is how many bullying situations get started. This girl is just trying to find a place to fit in. Maybe it's with your group, and maybe not. Either way, try to let go of being mad at her for "annoying" you, and really give her a chance. Be kind. Say *hi*. And deal with the fact that she's not perfect—who is, after all? If she asks you questions you don't want to answer, just ask her a question about herself to change the subject. Telling this girl to go play with someone else or leaving her out on purpose can turn quickly into bullying. That WILL hurt her feelings and might land you four in trouble. So just share your friendship. That'll only turn out well.



### Dear American Girl,

To fall asleep, I have to say good night to my favorite doll and tell her that I love her. It's kind of embarrassing to do that at a sleepover. How can I feel better?

#### doll girl

Keep your doll inside your sleeping bag, and then whisper to her when you're ready for bed. If someone decides to tease you about your doll, just shrug and say confidently,



"It helps me sleep. What's the big deal?" But you also can try leaving your doll at home and thinking of her when you go to bed. You don't actually need her to sleep—she just helps you finish up your day. Try the same thoughts without her in your arms. Bet you'll still fall asleep.



### Dear American Girl,

My mom braids my hair every morning, and I like it! But the braids hurt my head, so much that when I take them out at night, my head aches and I can't sleep. Should I just live with it?

#### weird hair

How about showering at night? That way, you can wash away the day's hairstyle before bed. Also, take out your braids as soon as you get home from school to give your scalp a rest. Always make sure to let your mom know what's making you uncomfortable. (That goes for any girl who's bothered by glasses, shoes, headbands, or whatever.) You don't have to just live with pain. Speak up, and get help finding a fix.





even  
**MORE HELP!**

**Dear American Girl,**

I love every idea in your magazine, and I want to make all of your crafts. But I never have any time. How can I make time?

*Time?*

It's important to make time for things that make you happier and healthier. That includes exercise, relaxation, and fun. If crafts make you happy, then work them into your busy schedule, just as you would homework or dance class. Ask a parent if you need help organizing your days, and pay attention to the time you spend sitting online, watching TV, or playing electronic games—those are good places to look for all your lost time!



**Dear American Girl,**

I don't know what my talent is. I'm in swim, gymnastics, and soccer right now, but I just can't find something that clicks and makes me think, *Oh, this is my thing*. All my friends have their own things, so why don't I? What should I do?



There's no rule that says you have to find one thing and be great at only that. Maybe your thing is being good at lots of things. That's talent, too, you know. It's cool to be a girl who fearlessly tries a lot of activities and can enjoy each of them without having to be the number-one best. Having lots of interests makes you an interesting person. Way to go!



**Dear American Girl,**

I have a friend who I sometimes (OK, always) fight with. On the last day of school, we fought, and she said that we were not friends anymore. How should I act on the first day back at school?

*friend fight*

Maybe you two just needed a break from each other. On the first day, be

kind and polite when you see your friend. You can smile and say *hi*. You might even want to apologize for your part in the latest fight. Maybe you two won't get to be close again. And that's OK—you can still be nice to a person even if you're not great friends anymore. But if you do get close and the fights start again, talk to your school counselor. She can help you two learn to disagree without hurting each other's feelings.



*Advice from You*

"Trying to be someone you're not? Stop. Who you are is beautiful, and true friends will love you if you bring out your true colors. Go be you!"

*Amber M.*

Age 13, Michigan

Need advice? Got advice? Write:  
Help!

**American Girl magazine**

8400 Fairway Place  
Middleton, WI 53562



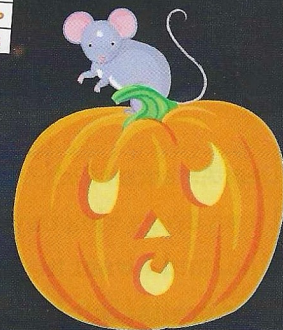
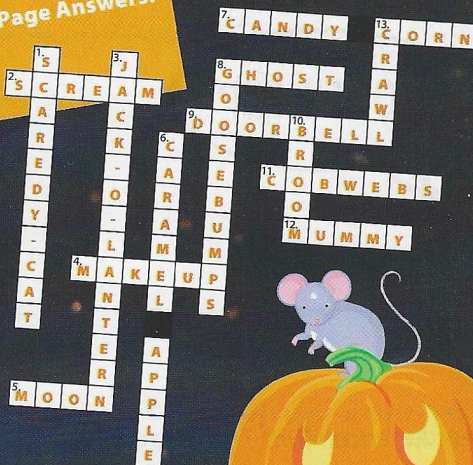
These are drawings of Aggie's kitty Peking from start to finish.

An art director makes the first sketch.

Then our illustrator creates a digital drawing.

And for the finishing touch, she adds color!

AG's Puzzle Page Answers:



# Behind the Scenes

Boo! It's a super-spooky issue of *American Girl*.



Lauren W., age 12, of Illinois made this ghostly drawing for our contest. The bat is holding an AG magazine!



To see more eerie artwork, go to [americangirl.com/playmagazine](http://americangirl.com/playmagazine)



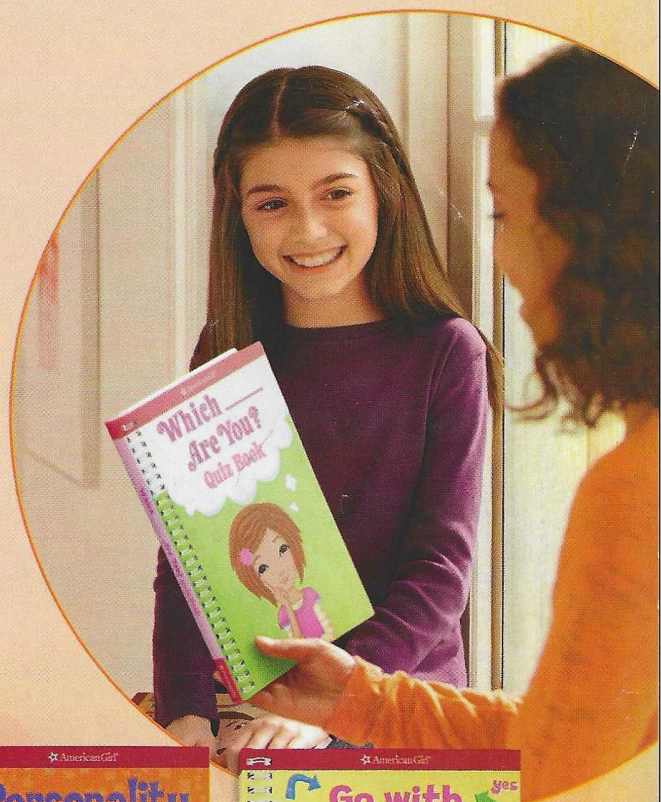
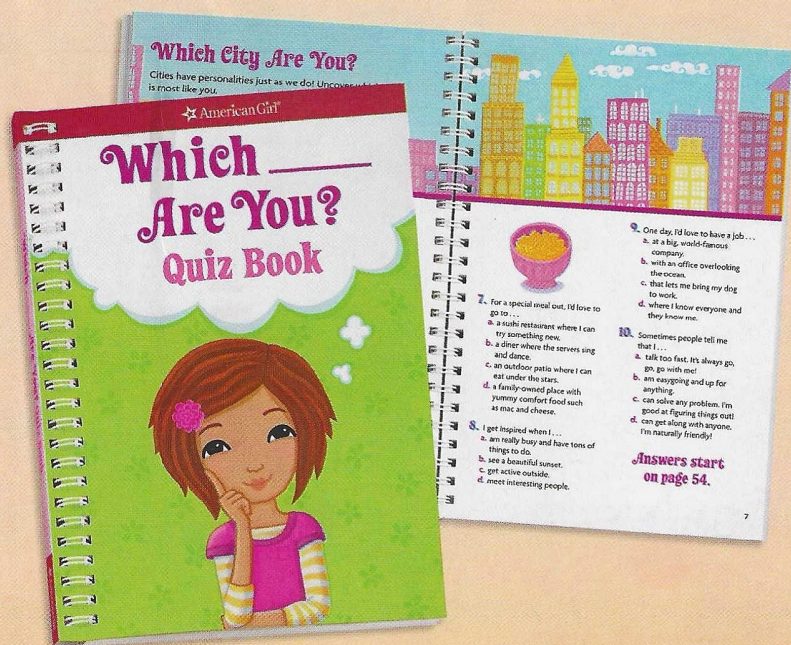
Here's Katie sitting in President Obama's chair after the inauguration. Wow!

This is how we created a "nighttime" Halloween scene for "Sticker Treat."

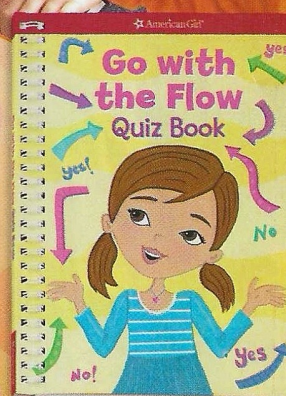
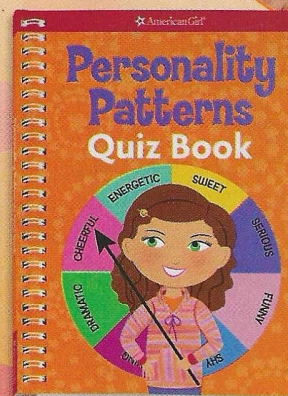




# POP QUIZ: What's your new favorite?



**You've never seen quizzes like these before!**  
 These brand-new, creative ways to quiz will help you reveal true feelings and talents. Plus, they'll give you a window into understanding yourself better. That's why quizzing is so much fun!



Looking for even more quiz fun? Check out [americangirl.com/play/magazine!](http://americangirl.com/play/magazine!)

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*Must be at least 18 years of age to purchase online.*



Coming up in the November/December issue of *American Girl* magazine

## Happy Howl-idays

Read heartwarming stories about girls and their dogs.

## Festive Fun

Find out ways to show holiday spirit from head to toe.

## Sweet Stuff

Whip up yummy gifts for friends and family.

## Warm & Cozy

See cute winter hats designed by our readers.



For more  
fun and games, go to  
[americangirl.com/playmagazine](http://americangirl.com/playmagazine)

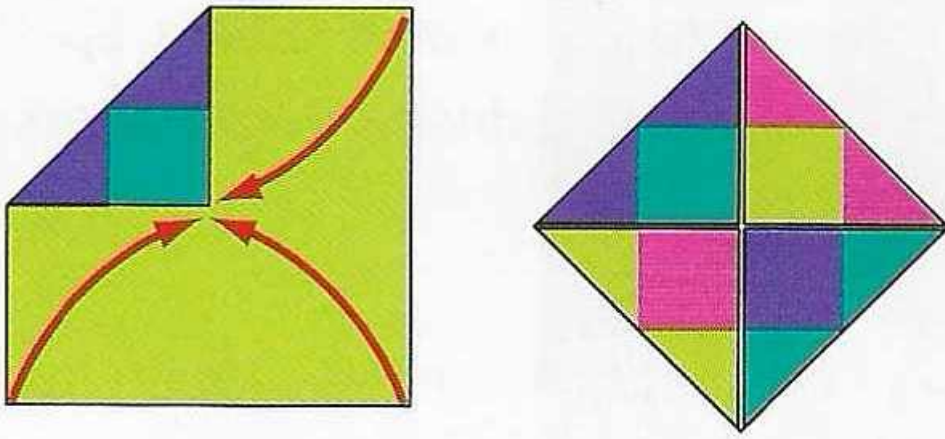


# AG's Halloween Dreams

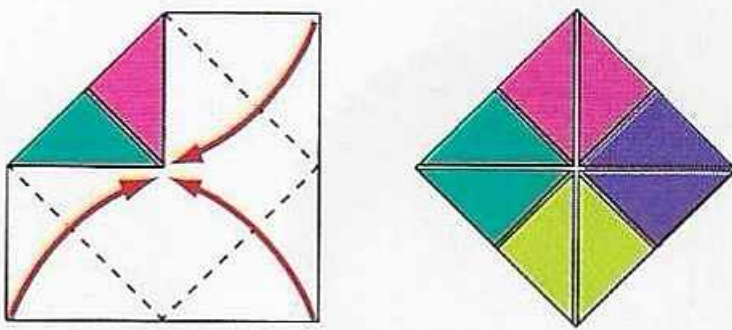
Use these at a spooky sleepover or a bone-chilling bash!

## How to fold a Halloween Dream

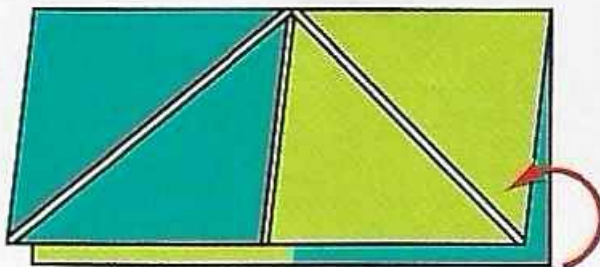
1. Cut out one square. Fold and unfold it in half diagonally in both directions to make an X. Place the square number-side down.
2. Fold each corner point into the center.



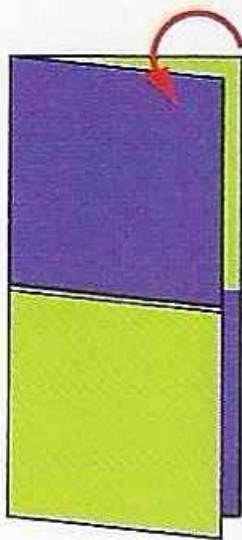
3. Flip so that flaps are facedown. Then fold each corner into the center.



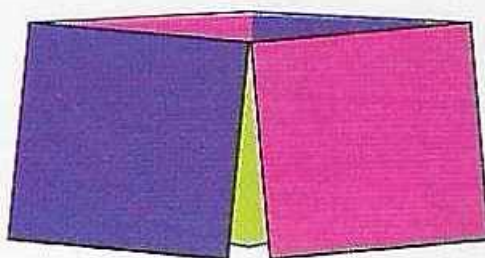
4. Fold in half this way to crease.



5. Then unfold and fold in half the other way.



6. Stick both thumbs and pointer fingers into the four pockets. Push all the pockets to a point to begin playing.



See other  
side for how  
to play!



## How to Play

- 1.** Insert your pointer fingers and thumbs under the numbered flaps on the Halloween Dream.
- 2.** Ask a friend to choose a number from one of the outside flaps, or choose one yourself. Open and close your fingers that number of times, moving them front to back and then sideways. (You can play on your own, too.)
- 3.** You or your friend will choose one of the words on the inside of the Halloween Dream. Spell out the word, opening and closing your fingers with each letter.
- 4.** Pick one of the words that shows. Open that flap and read the message beneath. ★

